

1 **CLAIMS**

2 *Sub*  
3 1. A system comprising:  
4 a search server;  
5 an encoder;  
6 a client computer;  
7 wherein the encoder is to provide an indication of a currently available live  
8 presentation to the search server;  
9 wherein the client computer is to submit a request with search criteria to the  
10 search server;  
11 wherein the search server is to,  
12 determine whether the currently available live presentation from the  
13 encoder matches the search criteria, and  
14 transmit an identifier of the encoder to the client computer if the  
15 currently available live presentation matches the search criteria; and  
16 wherein the encoder is to provide the live presentation to the client  
17 computer.

18 2. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the encoder is further to  
19 provide a subsequent indication to the search server indicating that the live  
20 presentation is over.

21  
22 3. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the encoder further provides  
23 to the search server, during the live presentation, information identifying current  
24 characteristics of the live presentation.  
25

1           4.    A system as recited in claim 3, wherein:  
2           the search server is further to transmit the information identifying current  
3           characteristics of the live presentation to the client computer; and  
4           the client computer is further to display the information identifying current  
5           characteristics of the live presentation.

6  
7           5.    A system as recited in claim 3, wherein:  
8           the information identifying current characteristics comprises a topic  
9           description; and  
10          the encoder provides a characteristics over indication to the search server  
11          when the topic identified by the topic description is no longer being presented.

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13          6.    A system as recited in claim 3, wherein the information identifying  
14          the current characteristics comprises text corresponding to the live presentation.

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16          7.    A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the live presentation  
17          comprises an audio/video streaming media presentation.

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19          8.    A system as recited in claim 1, wherein the search server is further to:  
20          maintain a record of user search requests; and  
21          notify the corresponding user when a new live presentation becomes  
22          available that satisfies a search request.

1           **9.**    A method comprising:  
2            sending, to a search server, information identifying a live presentation  
3            available over a network at the beginning of the live presentation; and  
4            identifying, to the search server, when the live presentation is no longer  
5            available over the network.

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7           **10.**   A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the identifying comprises  
8            sending, to the search server, an indication of the duration of the live presentation.

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10           **11.**   A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the identifying comprises  
11            sending, to the search server, an indication of when the live presentation has  
12            ended.

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14           **12.**   A method as recited in claim 9, further comprising sending, to the  
15            search server, an identifier of an encoder from which the live presentation can be  
16            obtained.

17  
18           **13.**   A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the sending the identifier  
19            comprises sending, as the identifier, a uniform resource locator (URL).

20  
21           **14.**   A method as recited in claim 9, further comprising identifying, to  
22            the search server, information indicating characteristics of a part of the live  
23            presentation currently being presented.  
24  
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1       **15.** A method as recited in claim 14, wherein the identifying  
2 information includes sending, to the search server, an indication of the duration of  
3 the characteristics.

4  
5       **16.** A method as recited in claim 15, wherein the identifying  
6 information comprises:

7       sending, to the search server, an indication of the characteristics when the  
8 current characteristics begin to describe the live presentation; and

9       sending, to the search server, a characteristics over indication when the  
10 current characteristics no longer describe the live presentation.

11  
12       **17.** A method as recited in claim 9, further comprising generating the  
13 information identifying the live presentation as the live presentation is presented  
14 over the network.

15  
16       **18.** A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the generating comprises  
17 identifying key words as the live presentation is presented.

18  
19       **19.** A method as recited in claim 9, further comprising using closed  
20 captioning data as the information identifying the live presentation.

21  
22       **20.** A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the live presentation  
23 comprises a composite media stream having an audio stream and a video stream.  
24  
25

1           **21.** One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer  
2 program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim  
3 9.

4  
5           **22.** A method comprising:  
6 receiving information identifying a live presentation; and  
7 making the information available for searching only for the duration of the  
8 live presentation.

9  
10           **23.** A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the receiving comprises  
11 receiving information identifying a live presentation scheduled to occur in the  
12 future.

13  
14           **24.** A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the receiving comprises  
15 receiving information identifying a currently available live presentation.

16  
17           **25.** A method as recited in claim 22, further comprising:  
18 receiving information identifying a plurality of live presentations; and  
19 for each live presentation, making the information identifying the live  
20 presentation available for searching only for the duration of the live presentation.

21  
22           **26.** A method as recited in claim 25, further comprising:  
23 maintaining a record of user search requests; and  
24 notifying the corresponding user when a new live presentation that satisfies  
25 a search request is available.

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2       **27.**    A method as recited in claim 26, further comprising:  
3       receiving, for each of the user search requests, an indication of how the user  
4       should be notified; and  
5       notifying the user in accordance with the notification.  
6

7       **28.**    A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the receiving comprises  
8       receiving the information from a same encoder as is presenting the information.  
9

10       **29.**    A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the making the  
11       information available for searching comprises:  
12       adding the information to a database of currently available live  
13       presentations; and  
14       deleting the information from the database when the live presentation has  
15       ended.  
16

17       **30.**    A method as recited in claim 29, further comprising:  
18       receiving a user search request; and  
19       accessing the database of currently available live presentations to determine  
20       whether a currently available live presentation matches the user search request.  
21

22       **31.**    A method as recited in claim 22, further comprising receiving an  
23       indication, from an encoder that is presenting the information, that the live  
24       presentation is over.  
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1           32.    A method as recited in claim 22, further comprising:  
2           receiving information identifying a current characteristic of the live  
3 presentation; and  
4           making the current characteristic available for searching for as long as the  
5 characteristic describes a currently presenting portion of the live presentation.

6  
7           33.    A method as recited in claim 32, wherein the making the current  
8 characteristic available for searching comprises:

9           adding the information identifying the current characteristic to a database of  
10 currently available live presentations; and

11           deleting the information identifying the current characteristic from the  
12 database when the characteristic no longer describes the currently presenting  
13 portion of the live presentation.

14  
15           34.    A method as recited in claim 32, further comprising:  
16           maintaining a record of user search requests; and  
17           alerting a corresponding user when a new current characteristic that  
18 satisfies a search request describes the currently presenting portion of the live  
19 presentation.

20  
21           35.    A method as recited in claim 33, further comprising:  
22           receiving a user search request; and  
23           checking the database of currently available live presentations to determine,  
24 based at least in part on the current characteristic in the database, whether a  
25 currently available live presentation matches the user search request.

1  
2       **36.**    A method as recited in claim 22, further comprising:  
3       receiving information identifying a current characteristic of the live  
4       presentation; and  
5       transmitting the information identifying the current characteristic of the live  
6       presentation to a client computer.

7  
8       **37.**    A method as recited in claim 22, further comprising:  
9       generating, based at least in part on the information identifying the live  
10      presentation, descriptive information corresponding to the live presentation; and  
11      adding the descriptive information to a database of currently available live  
12      presentations.

13  
14      **38.**    A method as recited in claim 22, wherein the live presentation  
15      includes an audio stream and a video stream.

16  
17      **39.**    One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer  
18      program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim  
19      22.

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21      **40.**    One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a  
22      computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one  
23      or more processors to perform functions including:  
24      identifying topic information corresponding to live content, the topic  
25      information identifying a current topic of the live content; and



transmitting the topic information to a server to make the topic information available for searching.

41. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 40, wherein the transmitting comprises transmitting the topic information to a search server.

42. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 40, wherein the transmitting comprises transmitting the topic information to an encoder.

43. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 40, further comprising transmitting a topic over indication to the server when the topic information is no longer the current topic.

44. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 43, wherein the transmitting the topic over indication comprises transmitting, as the topic over indication, a cancel topic indicator.

45. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 43, wherein the transmitting the topic over indication comprises transmitting, as the topic over indication, new current topic information.

46. An apparatus comprising:  
a bus;

1 a processor coupled to the bus; and  
2 a memory, coupled to the bus, to store a plurality of instructions that are  
3 executed by the processor, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed,  
4 cause the processor to,  
5 receive information identifying live content,  
6 maintain the information for as long as the live content is available,  
7 and  
8 use the information to respond to searches from a plurality of client  
9 computers.

10  
11 **47.** An apparatus as recited in claim 46, wherein the instructions to  
12 receive information identifying live content are to receive information identifying  
13 live content available from an encoder at the time the information is received.

14  
15 **48.** An apparatus as recited in claim 46, further comprising a nonvolatile  
16 storage device, coupled to the bus, to record the information identifying live  
17 content.

18  
19 **49.** An apparatus as recited in claim 46, wherein the plurality of  
20 instructions, when executed, further cause the processor to store the information  
21 identifying live content in the memory.  
22  
23  
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50. An apparatus as recited in claim 46, wherein the information identifying live content includes a set of descriptive words and an indicator of a server from which the live content is available.

51. An apparatus as recited in claim 50, wherein the indicator of the server comprises a uniform resource locator (URL).

52. An apparatus as recited in claim 46, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed, further cause the processor to:

receive information identifying current characteristics of the live content;  
maintain the information identifying the current characteristics for as long as the characteristics describe the live content; and  
use the information identifying the current characteristics to respond to searches from the plurality of client computers.

53. An apparatus as recited in claim 46, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed, further cause the processor to:

receive information identifying current topic information identifying a topic currently being presented as part of the live content;  
receive an indication that the topic is no longer being presented;  
maintaining the topic information for a period of time after receiving the indication that the topic is no longer being presented; and  
using the current topic information to respond to searches from the plurality of computers during the period of time.

54. An apparatus as recited in claim 46, wherein the plurality of instructions, when executed, further cause the processor to generate, based on the information identifying live content, descriptive information to be added to a database of live content.

55. A method comprising:  
identifying a set of search criteria to be compared to information describing a plurality of live presentations;  
transmitting the set of search criteria to a server; and  
receiving a list of live presentations currently in progress that match the search criteria.

56. A method as recited in claim 55, further comprising:  
selecting a live presentation from the list of live presentations; and  
requesting that the selected live presentation be transmitted to a client computer corresponding to a user making the selection.

57. A method as recited in claim 55, further comprising:  
transmitting a notification type to the server that indicates how a user that identifies the set of search criteria should be notified by the server when a live presentation is determined by the server to match the search criteria.

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